



California Postsecondary Education Commission

College-Going Rates of California High School Graduates: Statewide and Local Figures

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ITEM 7

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The percentage of high school graduates entering the University of California (UC) and the California State University (CSU) has increased in the last two years, offsetting the downturn that occurred between 2001 and 2003. In 2005, 9.2% of California high school graduates entered CSU and 6.0% entered UC. College-going rates for CSU are now well above the rates of the late 1990s. The recovery was weaker for UC, where college going rates now stand at about the same level as the late 1990s.

The percentage of high school graduates entering the California Community College system (CCC) has gradually decreased. Just under 25% of California high school graduates entered community colleges in 2005, compared with 26% in 2000 and almost 30% in the mid 1990s (see Display 1).

Other trends in college-going rates:

- **College-going rates for Asians** are much higher than the rates for other ethnic groups.
- **Rates for Latinos going to a UC** have remained the same over the last two years, while increasing at CSU and declining at community colleges.
- **African American college-going rates** have increased for females at UC, while decreasing for males.
- **Native American students** have declined steadily in college-going rates after peaking in 1995, and are now at some of the lowest rates seen in the last two decades.
- **Gender gaps in college going rates** are evident in each of the segments.
- **Rates for the largest counties varied in 2005**, with Santa Clara, Fresno and Ventura having the highest college-going rates to UC, CSU and CCC, respectively.

Display 1: 2005 College-Going Rates¹

| 2005 | UC | CSU | CC |
|--------------------|------|------|------|
| Both sexes | | | |
| All ethnicities | 6.0 | 9.2 | 24.8 |
| African American | 2.8 | 10.1 | 28.3 |
| Native American | 2.7 | 6.6 | 23.9 |
| Asian ² | 19.7 | 15.0 | 29.0 |
| Latino | 3.0 | 7.9 | 27.8 |
| White | 5.5 | 9.4 | 24.1 |
| Male | | | |
| All ethnicities | 5.8 | 8.4 | 28.0 |
| African American | 2.0 | 7.5 | 30.1 |
| Native American | 2.2 | 5.2 | 21.9 |
| Asian | 17.5 | 13.5 | 31.5 |
| Latino | 2.4 | 6.2 | 27.9 |
| White | 4.9 | 8.1 | 25.4 |
| Female | | | |
| All ethnicities | 7.2 | 11.5 | 26.1 |
| African American | 3.4 | 12.2 | 26.8 |
| Native American | 3.2 | 7.8 | 25.6 |
| Asian | 21.9 | 16.6 | 26.4 |
| Latino | 3.5 | 9.3 | 27.8 |
| White | 6.1 | 10.8 | 22.8 |

1. College-going rates for public higher education institutions in California are calculated by dividing the number of college freshmen by the number of high school graduates.

2. The term Asian includes Pacific Islander and Filipino.

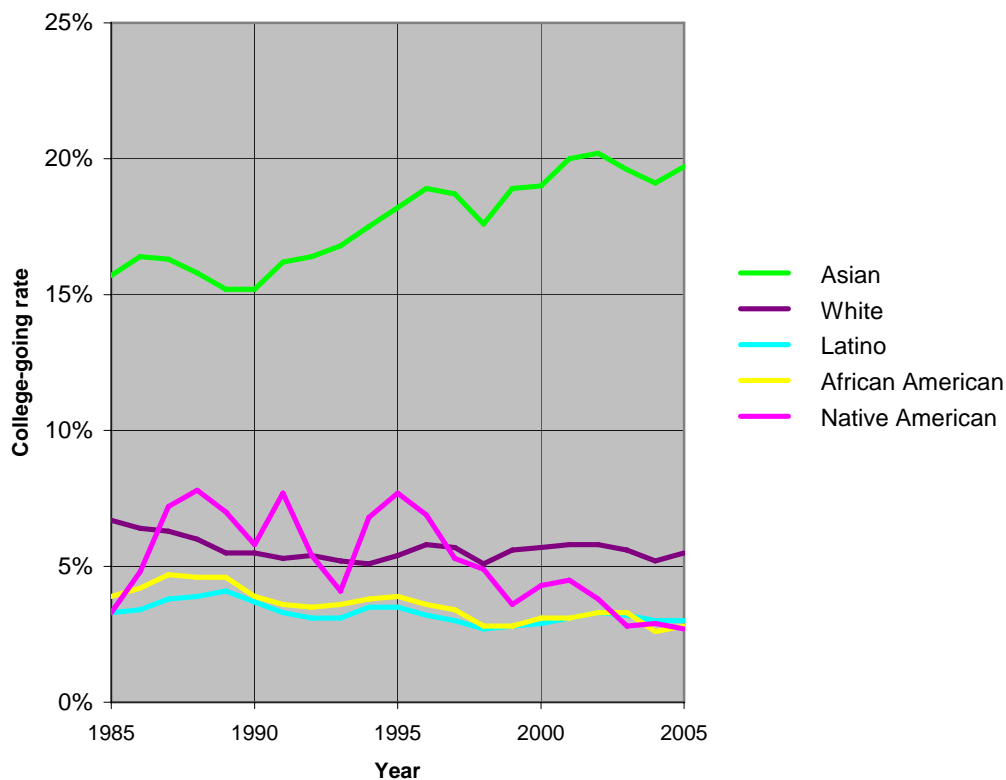
I. Trends by Ethnicity

At both UC and CSU, Asians (including Pacific Islanders and Filipinos), tend to have college-going rates that are significantly higher than other races/ethnicities. In 2005, Asians had a college-going rate to UC of 19.7%, whereas Whites had a rate of 5.5%.

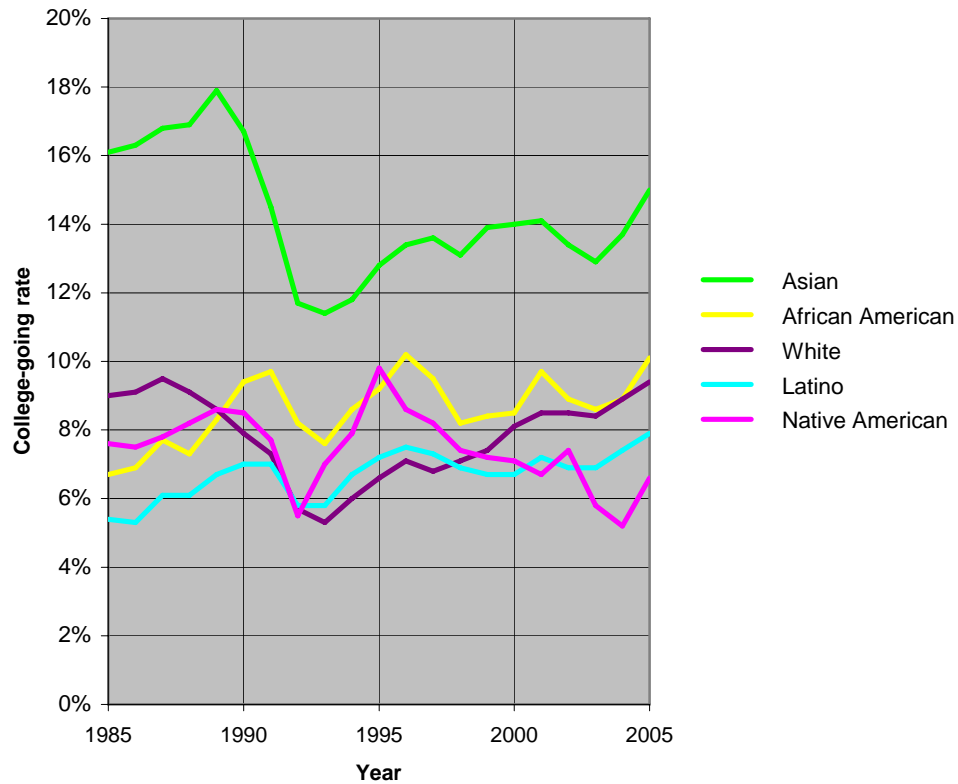
While African Americans have the lowest college-going rates for UC, they tend to have particularly high rates for CSU. In 2005, African American high school graduates enrolled in CSU institutions at a rate of 10.1%, Whites had a rate of 9.4%, and Latinos attended at a rate of 7.9%.

The college-going rate of Native Americans has generally decreased over the last decade at each segment. Although the rate started to increase in 1985, it began to decline a decade later. The rate for Native Americans attending a UC campus initially started at 3.3% in 1985, peaking at 7.7% in 1995, then declining to the most recent rate of 2.7%. At CSU, the college-going rate was at 7.6% in 1985, reaching its highest point in 1995 at 9.8%. The most recent rate available in 2005 shows Native Americans going to college at a rate of 6.6%.

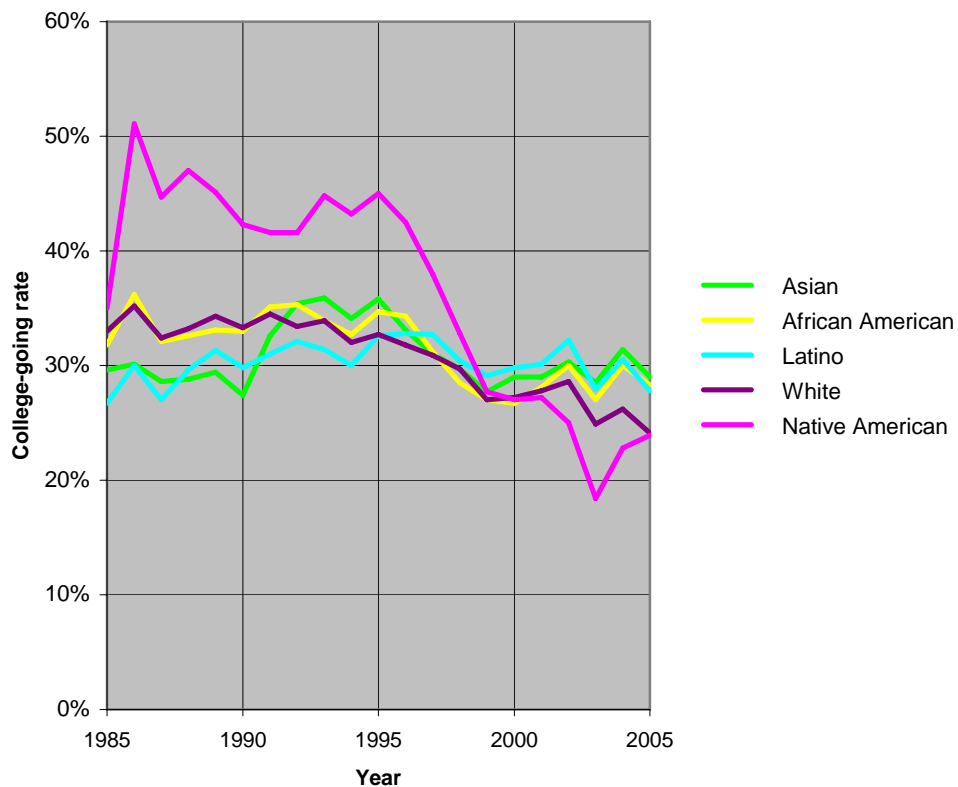
Display 2: College-Going Rates for the University of California (UC) by Ethnicity



Display 3: College-Going Rates for the California State University (CSU) by Ethnicity



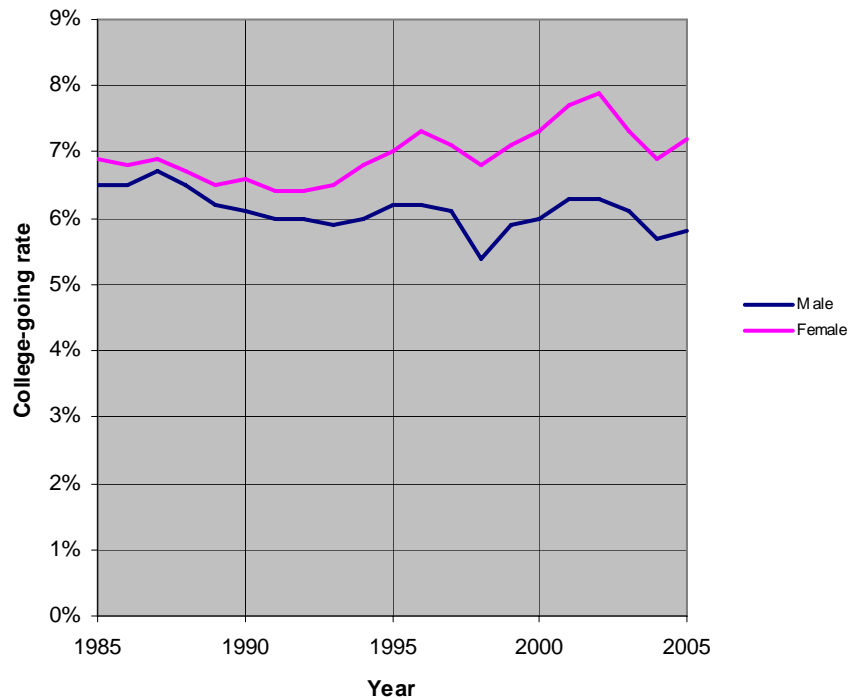
Display 4: College-Going Rates for the California Community Colleges (CCC) by Ethnicity



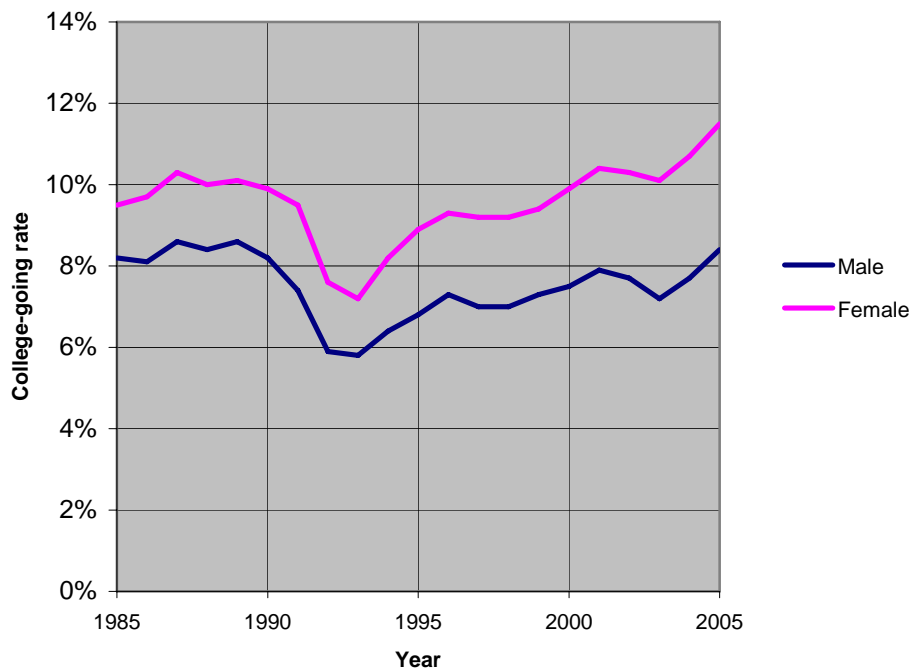
2. Trends by Gender

Data show that gender gaps are evident in all three segments. Over the last two decades, females have consistently had higher college-going rates than males, and the gap appears to be growing wider. In 1985, female high school graduates went on to a UC at a rate of 6.9%, gradually increasing to a rate of 7.2% in 2005. Males, on the other hand, attended a UC at a rate of 6.5% in 1985 which declined to a rate of 5.8% in 2005 (see Display 5). Similar trends can be seen in college-going rates for CSU with females attending at a rate of 9.5% in 1985 and increasing to a rate of 11.6% in 2005. Males saw a slight increase in college-going rates with a rate of 8.2% in 1985 and 8.4% in 2005 (see Display 6).

Display 5: College-Going Rates for the University of California (UC) by Gender

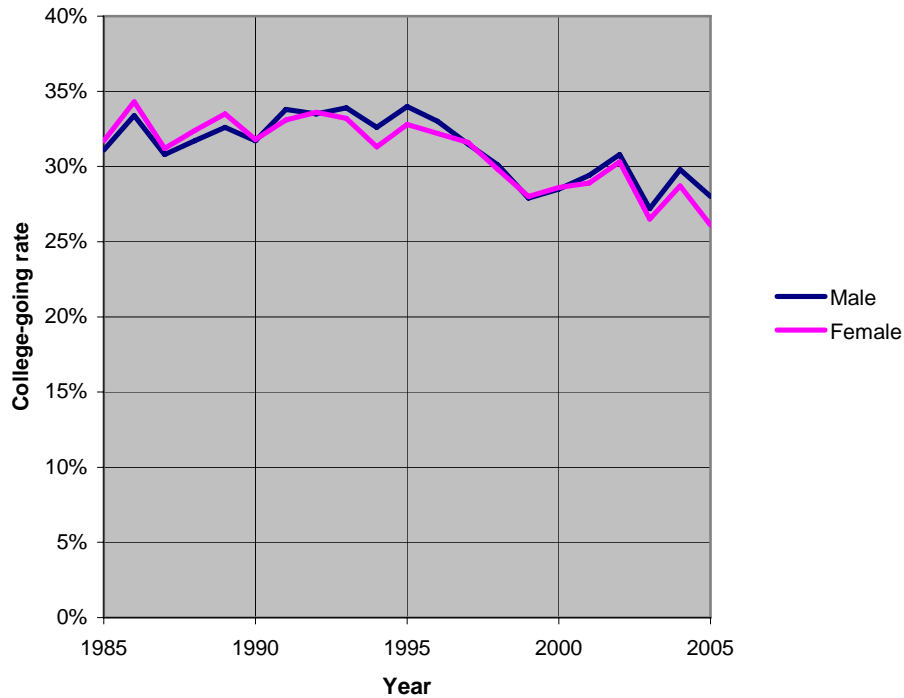


Display 6: College-Going Rates for the California State University (CSU) by Gender



Although there is currently a gender gap in college-going rates of high school graduates to community colleges, the rates for both genders have been relatively equal over the past 20 years. Beginning in 2002, males began to have higher college-going rate and currently have a rate of 28% whereas females have a rate of 25.4% (see Display 7).

Display 7: College-Going Rates for the California Community Colleges (CCC) by Gender



3. High School Graduation Rates

In general, high school graduation rates follow the same pattern as college-going rates with respect to ethnicity and gender (see Display 8). High school graduation rates show that African Americans, particularly males, graduate at lower rates than their counterparts. In 2004, African American males had a high school graduation rate of 73%, compared to 95% for Asian females. Not only are a smaller proportion of African American males graduating from high school, an even smaller proportion are going on to college.

When looking at the high rates for Asians, it is important to remember that these rates do not reflect the diversity found among Asian students. Not all Asian ethnicities fit the “model minority” image. For example, certain groups, such as Hmong, who have lower high school graduation rates, may not be reflected in the data because they represent a small proportion of the Asian population in California.

| Display 8: High School Graduation Rates, 2004 | | | |
|--|-----------------|------|--------|
| | Graduation Rate | | |
| | Both sexes | Male | Female |
| All Ethnicities | 88 | 83 | 91 |
| African American | 80 | 73 | 88 |
| Native American | 83 | 79 | 86 |
| Asian | 93 | 90 | 95 |
| Latino | 83 | 78 | 89 |
| White | 90 | 87 | 93 |

4. College-Going Rates by County

College-going rates for high school graduates from the state's 15 largest counties vary widely. In 2005, Santa Clara County sent the highest proportion of high school graduates to UC campuses at 11.1%, while Fresno had the highest CSU rate at 11.9%. Ventura County sends the highest proportion of high school graduates to community colleges with a college-going rate of 43.9%. College-going rates for all counties in California are available at the following website:

<http://www.cpec.ca.gov/onlinedata/cacontext.asp>

5. Next Steps

Commission staff will develop a report for the December Commission meeting based on this working paper. It will include college-going rates broken down by the socioeconomic characteristics of high schools. These figures will allow a comparison of trends in college-going between schools in poorer areas and schools in more affluent areas and show whether the state is making progress in closing the gaps in opportunities for higher education.

In addition, Commission staff plans to examine the factors underlying the variation in college-going from school to school. This analysis will help identify obstacles that students face in moving on to higher education and will form a basis for policies to improve opportunities for students from areas and ethnic groups that tend to have low college-going rates. Further analysis can also be done on individual campuses in the UC and CSU systems, with an attempt to identify trends in the demographics of students going to each school.

| | 1990 | 1995 | 2000 | 2005 |
|------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|
| University of California | | | | |
| Santa Clara | 7.8 | 8.4 | 9.4 | 11.1 |
| Alameda | 6.9 | 7.3 | 8.6 | 10.1 |
| San Mateo | 7.1 | 6.5 | 7.9 | 9.0 |
| Contra Costa | 9.2 | 8.7 | 9.1 | 8.6 |
| Orange | 8.5 | 8.7 | 8.0 | 7.3 |
| Los Angeles | 6.0 | 6.5 | 6.2 | 6.1 |
| Ventura | 5.8 | 5.7 | 5.8 | 5.8 |
| San Diego | 6.2 | 7.0 | 6.4 | 5.6 |
| Sacramento | 5.0 | 4.8 | 5.3 | 4.7 |
| Riverside | 4.8 | 5.5 | 5.6 | 4.5 |
| San Bernardino | 3.5 | 3.9 | 4.3 | 4.2 |
| Fresno | 2.9 | 3.5 | 3.0 | 3.1 |
| San Joaquin | 3.0 | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.0 |
| Stanislaus | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.8 |
| Kern | 2.7 | 1.8 | 2.0 | 2.6 |
| California State University | | | | |
| Fresno | 11.0 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 11.9 |
| Alameda | 9.4 | 8.1 | 10.4 | 11.8 |
| Santa Clara | 10.8 | 8.0 | 9.7 | 10.9 |
| San Mateo | 9.0 | 6.3 | 8.5 | 10.4 |
| San Diego | 7.9 | 8.6 | 8.6 | 10.2 |
| Contra Costa | 7.7 | 6.8 | 7.7 | 10.0 |
| Orange | 9.4 | 6.6 | 7.6 | 9.3 |
| San Bernardino | 7.5 | 6.6 | 7.5 | 9.1 |
| Los Angeles | 9.2 | 7.6 | 7.5 | 9.1 |
| Sacramento | 6.7 | 7.2 | 9.0 | 9.1 |
| Kern | 6.5 | 6.4 | 7.6 | 9.0 |
| Stanislaus | 6.1 | 7.2 | 8.3 | 8.7 |
| Riverside | 4.7 | 4.9 | 6.1 | 8.2 |
| San Joaquin | 4.8 | 5.6 | 6.8 | 6.7 |
| Ventura | 5.2 | 4.3 | 5.2 | 6.5 |
| Community Colleges | | | | |
| Ventura | 29.3 | 36.3 | 35.6 | 43.9 |
| Orange | 33.4 | 34.0 | 32.0 | 34.0 |
| Sacramento | 36.6 | 35.5 | 33.0 | 33.6 |
| Alameda | 31.0 | 31.0 | 29.3 | 30.2 |
| Los Angeles | 26.5 | 27.9 | 23.5 | 27.1 |
| San Joaquin | 37.2 | 34.1 | 31.2 | 26.1 |
| San Mateo | 33.2 | 38.7 | 26.7 | 26.0 |
| Kern | 39.3 | 23.2 | 31.5 | 25.3 |
| San Bernardino | 26.6 | 19.2 | 24.3 | 20.9 |
| Stanislaus | 20.8 | 33.3 | 33.9 | 20.7 |
| San Diego | 31.0 | 34.0 | 23.3 | 20.1 |
| Santa Clara | 32.8 | 34.1 | 28.1 | 16.5 |
| Riverside | 27.4 | 17.1 | 15.8 | 16.5 |
| Contra Costa | 33.8 | 33.3 | 8.6 | 11.1 |
| Fresno | 33.8 | 38.6 | 28.0 | n |

Note: n = not available.

